CONFRONT A CHEATER

BY

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EXT. SMOKING SECTION BEHIND RESTAURANT - NIGHT

TWO LINE COOKS TAKE A BREAK. ONE OF THEM LIGHTS A CIGARETTE (Damien) WHILE THE OTHER LOOKS AROUND NERVOUSLY (Rodney). THE NERVOUS LINE COOK STRUGGLES TO ASK THE OTHER A QUESTION.

RODNEY:
Hey, c..can I ask you a question?

DAMIEN EXHALES AND MAKES EYE CONTACT. REMAINS SILENT.

RODNEY: (CONT'D)
So, I just found out that my girlfriend has been cheating on me..and I was wondering if you've ever been through something like that?

DAMIEN:
Yeah..once. A long long time ago.

RODNEY:
How did you confront her after you found out? if you don't mind me asking..

DAMIEN:
Well, if ya really want to know.. I can tell ya.

RODNEY:
Please.

DAMIEN:
Just remember that every situation is different, okay? We had been together for nearly 8 years at this point. That's a hell of a lot different than a fling that lasts a couple months.

RODNEY:
We've been together for 3 years though..so it still hurts.

DAMIEN:
Well, when I found out it was totally by accident. I saw them together at a bar when she was supposed to be out of town on work. At first, I was nauseous. I was enraged. I felt worthless and betrayed. But I kept my

(MORE)

DAMIEN: (CONT'D)
mouth shut and went along with everything as usual. Over the course of a month or so, I did some research and hired and Private Investigator.

RODNEY:
Whoah. That's a little psycho..

DAMIEN:
Just wait.. so the Private Investigator found out the guy's name, his address, where he worked, his license plate number, and to top it off, he found out that it had been going on for almost two years under my nose. Had that not been the case, I may have handled things differently..

RODNEY:
Did you just walk up to them in public? What happened?

DAMIEN:
Oh no. That would have been too simple. and far less satisfying. No, I found out their secret anniversary because she had marked that day with a heart on the living room calendar..

RODNEY:
Not even trying to hide it... wow

DAMIEN:
It just so happens that their anniversary fell on a Sunday that year. Sundays were typically the days that her and I would play board games, order a pizza, watch a movie, and just relax. Sometimes she would miss because of work, which was fine. But then I realized she was bailing on our Sunday plans to have passionate secret anniversary sex with her lover..

RODNEY:
geez, that's -

DAMIEN:
Oh no, don't worry. So that week, she told me that she was going to miss

DAMIEN: (CONT'D)
Sunday Board games, which was no surprise to me. As she was heading out the door, I asked her to play one round of Pictionary with me. I begged. I even cried. Until she finally broke down and said yes. I composed myself and asked if I could go first. And remember, we did this almost every week so our Pictionary game had crazy made up things we both added to make it more challenging. I drew a card that said "Serendipity" in her hand writing by chance, I shit you not.

RODNEY:
Oh god.. When the Universe looks back, am I right?

DAMIEN:
You're not kidding. and man, she guessed almost immediately. it was quite impressive if she wasn't cheating that is!

BOTH LINE COOKS BUST INTO LAUGHTER FOLLOWED BY AN AWKWARD SILENCE.

DAMIEN: (CONT'D)
Anyway, I could tell she wanted to get going so I pumped her ego a little bit. like "wow! that was so fast! You're so smart, and beautiful! How did I ever get so lucky?" As she bowed jokingly, I slid a card onto the top of the deck that said "Happy Anniversary! not ours of course!" followed by all of the personal information of her lover. His name, address, etc. She drew the card as I sat back in my easy chair, lit cigarette, and waited.

RODNEY:
Whoah...

DAMIEN:
As she went to speak, I just waived my finger in the air back and forth and said "ah ah ah. No words. Only pictures."

RODNEY:
Oh my god... what did she draw?

DAMIEN:
She broke down into tears and kept trying to talk. I couldn't understand her at all. I just kept saying things like "Oh don't worry honey, it's just a game." and "you can pick a different card if that one is too hard." After I finished my cigarette, I packed up a suitcase, turned every light in the house off, and watched her there sobbing in the fetal position. The last thing I said to her was "I think we should see other people." Then I left.

RODNEY:
Holy shit... no mercy..

DAMIEN:
When it comes to your own self-worth, your own boundaries, and the trust you establish with others, you can't show mercy. Otherwise, you will get taken advantage of. Every time. without question.. No matter how you confront her, the important thing is that you have the courage to stand up for yourself for the right reasons.

RODNEY:
So you're saying I shouldn't give her another chance? She's too good for me anyway.. I don't know if -

DAMIEN:
Stop right there. I don't know you that well, but I know that you definitely don't deserve to be lied to and taken for a fool. When you realize you can love yourself more than anyone else can, then nothing is too good for you. It becomes good for you. Basing your self-worth on the opinions others have towards you is NOT good for you. I'm not saying that either way is the right or wrong way, I'm only trying to convey the importance of self respect. Do you respect yourself? Do she

(MORE)

DAMIEN: (CONT'D)
respect you? Does she respect herself? Can you trust her to not lie again?

RODNEY:
I mean, I don't -

DAMIEN:
Your answers are for you, my guy. What good will they do me? I'm just giving something to think about is all..

AN ALARM GOES OFF ON RODNEY'S PHONE.

DAMIEN: (CONT'D)
Break's over, back to it, eh?

RODNEY:
Ya, I guess. Back to work...

THEY BOTH HEAD BACK THROUGH THE SWINGING KITCHEN DOOR.

FADE OUT. END.